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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1866.

The Dred Scott Decision at the Bar of

History. IT is encouraging to notice how rapidly the moral sentiment of the nation, since the overthrow of slavery, is recovering its normal and healthy tone. It is but a little while since slavery had open and defiant advocates. The public press endorsed it; the pulpit attempted to sanctify it; the legislators of the country defended it; the judiciary bowed down before it. It is only three years since the Democratic party of Pennsylvania were circulating, as a campaign document, Bishop Hopkins' defense of slavery. Men then gloried in being proslavery, and to call one an "Abolitionist" was to exhaust the vocabulary of denunciation upon his unfortunate head. Now, how changed! Even Democratic newspapers have come to resent being called pro-slavery. Legislation has found a nobler exercise for Wite functions, than the fencing in of human chattels; and Christian bishops have found better, and, let us hope, more congenial work, than furnishing ammunition to infidelity by saddling injustice and oppression upon the Bible.

We have met with no more striking evidence of this great change that has come over the community, than is furnished by an article in yesterday's issue of our Demoeratic morning contemporary, attempting to whitewash the memory of the late Chief Justice Taney, with reference to the notorious Dred Scott decision. All will remember how the wicked sentiment that "The negro had no rights that the white man was bound to respect," was received with universal applause by the supporters of slavery; how they gloried in it; how it exactly chimed in with the current doctrines and practices of the slave power. No pro-slavery man, in those days, thought of apologizing for the atrocious sentiment, or of defending the Chief Justice for thrusting it before the people. It was a good thing - to be indersed and gloried over, not to be apologized for.

Now, however, we hear a very different song sung by the same men. The pressure of the moral condemnation of the world begins to be felt, and they wince under it. We are told, in a strain of mingled melancholy and indignation, that "the infamous sentiment," (we are glad that the Age at last acknowledges it to be infamous), that "negroes have no rights that white men are bound to respect," was "never expressed" by Chief Justice Taney, and then we are treated to a pathetic essay upon the probability that, owing to the charges that he did express it, his name will go down to future generations "libelled" and beclouded by this " bald and plain invention."

Now, the truth is, that while Chief Justice Taney did not, in so many words, say that he himself believed the negroes "to have no rights that the white man was bound to respect," yet he did invent the sentiment, coin the exact expression, and then falsely ascribe it to the founders of our Government; and he did all this for the sake of justifying himself in a decision as infamous as was the sentiment he invented. He did not find the sentiment in history, and then chronicle it. He found it in his own heart, and attempted to fasten it upon the fathers of the Republic. It was, therefore, his, and not theirs; and the popular speaker or writer who at this day speaks of that infamous sentiment as Chief Justice Taney's, is historically correct.

This falsification of history by the Chief Justice was exposed and answered at the time by two of his associates-Justice McLeau and Justice Curtis, in their protound and exhaustive opinions upon the same case. But one of the most scathing reviews which this "infamous sentiment" ever received was at the hands of our great historian, Hon. George Bancroft. In his oration before the Mayor, Common Council, and citizens of New York. on the 22d of February, 1862, Mr. Bancroft said -

, "The present Chief Justice has, in one memorable appeal, accompanied his decision with an impassioned declaration, wherein, with profound imporality, which no one has yet laid bare, tree ing the people of the United States as a shrew to be tamed by an open scorn of the facts of history, with a dreary industry collecting cases where justice may have slumbered, or weakness been oppressed, compensating for want of evidence by condence of assertion, with a partial ty that would have disgraced an advocate neglecting humane decisions of colonial courts and the enduring memorials of colonial statute-books, in his party zeal to prove that the fathers of our country held the negro to have no rights that the white man was bound to respect," he has not only denied the rights of man and the liberties of mankind, but has not left a footbook for the liberty of the white man to rest upon.
"No nation can adopt that judgment as its

"No nation can adopt that judgment as its rule, and live. The judgment has in it no element of political vitality. I will not say it it is an invocation of the dead past; there never nose a past that accepted such opinions! If we want the opinions received in the days when our Constitution was trained, we will not take them second-hand from our Chief Justice; we will let the men of that day speak for themselves. How will our American magistrate sink when arraigned, as he will be, before the tribunal of kumanity! How terrible will be the versict against him when he is put in comparison with Washingt n's political teacher, the arraigned as he will be received against him when he is put in comparison with Washingt n's political teacher, the arraigned in what are esteemed the worst days of her monstehy! The argument from the difference of race which Tancy thrusts forward with passionate confidence, as a proof of complete disqualification, is brought forward by Montesquien as a scathing satire on all the brood of despots who were sup-

posed to uphold slavery as tolerable in itself. The rights of Manking—that precious word which had no equivalent in the language of Hindosian or Judea or Greece or Rome, or of Hindostan or Judea or Greece or Rome, or any ante-Christian tongue—found their supporters in Washington and Hamilton, in Franklin and Livingston, in Otis, George Mason, and Gadsden—in all the greatest men of our early history. The one rule from which the makers of our first Confederacy, and then of our National Constitution, never a werved, is this:— To fix no constitutional disability on any one. Whatever might stand in the way of any man from opinion, ancestry, weakness of mind, interiority, or inconsistence of any kind, was itself not formed into a permanent distranchisement. The Constitution of the United States was made under the recognized inducace of the eternal rule of order and right, so that, so far as its jurisdiction extends, it raised at once the numerous class who had been chattels into the condition of princes. It neither originates nor

perpetuates inequality. Such is the reply of the truthful historian to the untruthful judge. An examination of the opinions and sentiments of the fathers of the Republic show, incontestably, that Taney was either ignorant of our early history, or that he deliberately falsified it. In ascribing to them that "infamous sentiment," which he had dug up out of his own prejudices and party spirit, he was guilty of that very corruption of history which the Age so strongly condemns. And the Age itself is similarly guilty, when it seeks to screen the memory of the defunct Chief Justice from the just odium of his deeds. The Dred Scott decision was an attempt to engraft the spirit of that "intamous sentiment" upon the national Constitution. Yet the Age would make it appear that, when that sentiment is publicly ascribed to Taney, he is "libelled," and that it is a partisan falsebood, propagated for partisan ends! This will not do. Whatever of odium attaches to this sentiment, so justly called "infamous," belongs to its real author. History has already fixed it upon him, and no amount of special pleading can remove the load. And its character will grow more infamous as we drift away farther and farther from the dark era that gave it birth. No judgment ever pronounced by a Jeffreys will be so abhorrent to future generations as that wholesale attempt at the dehumanization of an entire race. It will stand as a monument of infamy to its author, and of disgrace to the age and country in which be lived.

The Advantages of Life Insurance.

WITHIN the past week, the attention of the reading public has been attracted, by the action of the convention of insurance companies which has been holding its meetings in New York, to the subject of life insurance; and considerable interest has been awakened in the working of the system. The idea is eminently due to our modern civilization, called into life by a desire to equalize the unavoidable losses occurring to families by the death of their heads, and is authorized by humanity as well as by business enterprise. There is no investment which recommends itself so strongly to a prudent father as the purchase of a policy in one of the reliable companies of the country. While the insurance for a yearly payment was the universal rule, the advantages to be derived were so obvious, that it behooved every man to lay aside a small part of his earnings, in order that poverty might not overtake those he loved when his last hour arrived. But the amended and improved system, whereby the purchaser, after a lapse of years, not only ceases to necessarily pay an annual instalment, but actually becomes a participator in the profits of the company, makes even the dullest see the inestimable advantage of securing one of these paid-up policies. The Life Insurance Companies of America form one of the grandest departments of business, and one founded upon a basis no less stable than that of banks or any incorporated institutions. The idea on which they are based is simple. A citizen pays a certain small sum. and receives a certificate which, should be die within a specified time, will entitle his heirs to a sum of money much larger than even the principal on which his annual payment would be the interest. How, then, we have heard it asked, do these associations pay? The answer is very simple. A very small proportion of the insured die until many years after they commence paying the company. The result is that, by successful investments. it is able to far more than gain the sum paid when at last the insured does depart this life. By judicious management, therefore, all of the sound insurance companies not only do good to those who avail themselves of their advantages, but also become most lucrative investments for the originators.

The design of the meeting of the agents of the various associations in New York was to reduce all the systems to a common basis, and have all the laws throughout the United States uniform in their operations. To do this the Chamber of Insurance was formed, which is to be chartered by the United States Government, and thus be saved from the follies and vagaries of State legislation. The effect of such a change will be a great improvement. It will not only secure uniformity, but it will separate the chaff from the wheat, and promote confidence among the people. We hope that we shall see the day when every man will have availed himself of what is only a duty to

his family. The pictures printed on certain of the cards of companies, representing the agent paying to the bereaved widow and orphans the sum which is to save them from penury, and place them above the reach of manual labor for dally bread, is no fancy sketch. All over this broad land such cases are occurring. Many sorrow-stricken families, whose only means of support has been withdrawn, are daily thus succored, and have cause to bless the forethought of the head which has been removed from them. It is a duty which every man owes to his children that he avail himself of the system. No man can tell under what circumstances he may die. He does not know at what hour, or whether the wealth he has gained in life may not be rent from his offspring when their protector is bereft them. But if

White the Profession was in \$1

he be insured in a sound and honorable company, his last hours need not be haunted with the dread that his loved ones would not only miss his presence, but also starve for bread.

As a general rule, the companies behave in the most honorable manner. It is to their interest so to do. As an instance, we may cite that of the Knickerbocker, of New York, an account of the humanity evinced by which Company we publish elsewhere in our issue to-day. All of the standard associations will be found most prompt in settling their claims. There need be no anxiety lest injustice be done. The investment is a safe one; and our advice to every one of our readers is to go at once, and in some reliable company provide comfort for his beirs when they shall be left without his aid and detense.

The Promised Political Fusion. THERE is an effort being made to lead the country to suppose that the Democratic party is willing to compromise the issues of the day, by acceding to universal suffrage in return for universal amnesty. Newspaper paragraphs are being industriously circulated, and we are told that the advocates of this compromise are numerous and powerful. The whole attempt is one grand scheme to make a cause strong by claiming that it is so. In reality, there is not a weaker political party than these would-be fusionists. Weand with us is the great mass of the Repubcan party-are utterly opposed to any such arrangement. We will have the Constitutional amendment adopted and made a part of the supreme law of the land, despite of all Southern opposition. The flat of the people of the great North has gone To no other condition will forth. they assent. Those party leaders who are endeavoring to compel the Republicans to assume an attitude of assent in regard to this universal Arcadia in prospectus, are taking upon themselves a representative character which is presumptive. Our party is [not composed of dumb driven cattle, but of thinking men. They have adopted another basis of compromise-a compromise of the only kind that should ever be allowed-a compromise in which the wrong must make an unconditional surrender. A universal amnesty would restore to the Senate and House all the leading traitors, while universal suffrage, such as they would allow, would merely increase their representative power, and endanger the stability of republican institutions. We are not ready to sacrifice our position, in which we can dictate, in order that we may compromise on a common basis. For the victors to lay down their arms, and meet the vanquished on equal terms, may be magnanimous, but safety must not be sacrificed to a melo-dramatic effect. We have proposed certain terms to them; the South has refused to consent. To recede now would not be to compromise; it would be to surrender to those who have surrendered to us. The Northern people will not assent to any such efforts to bring about readjustment. We have humiliated ourselves often enough in the; past, and wo to the party leader who would again advise us to bow to Southern arrogance, and hold any dealings with unre-pentant traitors unless they be on their knees.

Suffrage and Amnesty in Tennessee. It is now quite probable that a bill granting qualified suffrage to the colored citizens of Tennessee will be passed by the Legislature of that State at its present session. It is doubtful whether the universal amnesty plan, which has generally been spoken of in connection with measures for the extension of the suffrage, will be adopted. The two things are entirely distinct, and stand upon altogether different grounds. It is by no means necessary that an act of justice to an innocent man shall be coupled with an act of mercy to a guilty one.

"COLORADO" JEWETT ON IMPEACH-MENM. -In another column we publish a letter from Hon. William Cornell Jewett on "Impeachment." That gentleman has always possessed a reputation as a liberal thinker, and his views will be read with interest, and assented to by many of the most progressive men of the day.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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